



Memorandum

Date: March 6, 2014
To: Planning Commission
From: Kamuron Gurol
Re: Temporary Homeless Encampments Code Development Process

Background

Recently Mary Queen of Peace church hosted the city's first homeless encampment, Tent City 4 (TC4). The permitting mechanism currently available for this type of use is a Temporary Use Permit (TUP). Many of Sammamish's peer jurisdictions have adopted specific code processes and requirements for temporary encampments. The City Council has directed staff to research the experience of peer cities and gather stakeholder input to develop specific regulations for Sammamish to permit this type of temporary land use.

Staff has assembled the attached table that shows how peer city codes address the permitting issues arising from homeless encampment proposals. Staff has also attached some additional information that will serve as background for the subject of homeless encampments.

Tonight

Staff will present an overview/introduction on the subject, answer questions, and will look for initial direction from the Commission.

Commissioners will find the following documents attached:

- Peer city comparison table
- Revised Code of Washington section 36.01.290
- MRSC Research Summary

From staff research and our experience with Tent City 4 (TC4) at Mary, Queen of Peace church, staff believes that several major policy choices will need to be made and that our ability to handle the permit process, inspections, neighborhood communications and public safety checks and responsiveness should bear on those choices.

The following staff recommendations were confirmed by the City Council during their recent annual retreat as general direction to the Planning Commission:

- Limit encampments to one location in the city at any one time
- Limit a site that has hosted from hosting again
- Limit total sites hosting to one site every 365 days
- Limit stays to 90 days plus move-in/move-out days

- Work with hosts/encampment sponsors to ensure warrant and sex offender checks. Options to consider include:
 - All residents at move-in
 - New prospective residents that ask to move in
 - Returning residents that have been absent for four days or more
- Proximity to transit or alternative mechanism provided by host site
- Public notice and comment opportunity

We hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.